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17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

The goals of Project Head Start are to develop in the child and his family a responsible attitude toward society, to help both child and family gain self-respect and dignity, to pinpoint the actual needs of children and families, to inform families of available social services and to provide help so that the family may apply for and use available services. Desirable qualifications for counselors are a thorough knowledge of and training in early childhood development and an awareness of the problems of culturally deprived children. The duties of the counselors involve activities as guidance consultant, social worker and school psychologist and include appraisal service, assistance, inventory service, communication with parents, referral service, consultant services, coordination of school assistance available and research. Cooperation between the counselor and teacher in the classroom and the school office can help to identify children experiencing school difficulties. The counselor, teacher and administrator working together in the school office are able to refer pupils to specialists in outside agencies.

An outline of suggested activities for counselors is included.

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El Paso Public Schools
Department of Testing and Psychological Services
June 22, 1965

Guidelines for Project Headstart Counselors

Goals of program. Included in statements with reference to goals in the manual for the project are the following objectives:

Developing in the child and his family a responsible attitude toward society and fostering feelings of belonging to a community.

Helping both the child and his family to a greater confidence, self-respect and dignity.

Pinpointing the actual needs of children and their families.

Finding out particularly whether there are special and immediate needs for clothing, food, books, toys, etc. which arise as a result of the child's being part of the HEAD START program.

Informing families of the community's available social services, including programs of public welfare.

Providing help to the family so that it may apply for and use such available services. In some cases it may even be necessary to supplement such services where they do not cover the needs of a child.

Offering help both for the children and their parents in the form of individual or group counseling.

Type of professional preparation desirable for reaching goals of program. Two related areas of training are mentioned in the program as desirable for professionals working in Headstart as follows:

Thorough training in early childhood development field

Problems of culturally deprived children

The work of the counselor. The duties of counselors in the Headstart program may be seen as involving activities which might constitute a part of the duties of a guidance consultant to parents and teachers, a social worker, and a school psychologist. An outline of suggested activities for counselors is given below:

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Activity	Place	Staff Relationships Involved
Appraisal service: Identification of children experiencing school difficulties. Observation, Individual interviews, etc.	Classroom School Office	Counselor Teacher
Assistance to these children growing out of observations.	Classroom	Counselor Teacher
Inventory service: Coordination of collection of information about pupils, and routing information to receiving school in September. Such information is kept in child's cumulative folder.	Office	Counselor Teacher Administrator
Communication with parents: Home visits, telephone and personal calls, letters, etc. Accompanying teachers on visits to homes when special problems may exist.	School Community	Teacher Counselor Administrator
Referral service: Referral of pupils, when advisable, to specialists in outside agencies.	School Office	Administrator Teacher Counselor
Consultant services: Assistance to teachers and administrators in understanding both normal and deviant behavior of Headstart children. Grouping for instruction, etc. (conferences)	School or classroom (when children are not present)	Counselor Administrator Teacher
Coordination of school assistance to children having special needs; glasses for visually handicapped, hearing aids when prescribed by physician, etc.	School Office	Administrator School nurse Teacher Counselor
Research: Perhaps can formulate statement of problems needing research; set up procedure for gathering information useful in solving these problems.	School Office Home	Administrator Counselor Teacher

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